

PUBLIC RELATIONS: THE ALL-PURPOSE SPEECH, "THE CROSSROADS AHEAD."

[This is offered for the assistance of those who will be called upon to ghost-write speeches for our civilian and military betters. As an old hand at this type of enterprise I have frequently been given the directive: "Write me a speech, but don't get me in trouble!" The following speech is guaranteed to accomplish this mission.]

Distinguished guests, Reverend Clergy, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues and comrades - it is an honor and a privilege to address you on this occasion today. First, I would like to congratulate each one of you assembled here on the attainment of the objectives for which you have worked so hard. A very strange thing happened to me tonight on my way to this function, which reminds me at this point of a story about this great nation of ours. The disturbing feature of all this is, despite all the bitter lessons, we, of course, know better.

As that great statesman once said, I need hardly remind this audience without fear of successful contradiction that we hand down to posterity as a matter of policy a few words about your splendid hospitality and this great nation of ours. We view with alarm under our present wise leadership and - some may be surprised for above and beyond we begin to see the sun break through. We are counting on your help because, as you so well know, money must be forthcoming to our way of life.

As we travel the long road ahead down to the grass roots of America there are those extremists whose voices cry out in the night. In this worthy cause we must not forsake but rather, with wisdom, recall that there are those who say that tomorrow may be too late. Make no mistake - in our overall approach no one will dispute this fact - and it is a sobering thought. It is perhaps more than coincidence, and honesty demands whether we desire it or not that we face up to the issue. As we must always endeavor to point out, this observation has led me to one conclusion.

We demand adequate funds. I shall not attempt in these brief remarks to point out the fact that we have come a long way. The world looks to us for leadership, and we point with pride in considering the credit side of the ledger.

Keeping always abreast of the times the record shows that we are a young nation. It is gratifying to hear, like all good Americans - and these are simple, hard facts. We have no illusions. This is no dream, but a challenge. History teaches us that the period of greatest crisis lies before us, and especially disillusioning has been our experience in this worthy cause. Yet, we must not falter!

Where, then, shall we turn? In our judgment we do not wish to confuse the issue. The primary aim has always been to understand the problem better. I do not pretend to know the answers. There are unmistakable signs I submit to you, and in such view we are perhaps more to be applauded than condemned - as the world may one day see.

Another and wiser man has said it better, for therein lies the common denominator of the people who will never give up. We should, then, pause and reflect. It was gratifying to hear, in our overall approach, and as a matter of fact it is this very spirit of unselfishness which is beyond peradventure of a doubt. Whoever would challenge these words of our revered founding fathers. I say to you, let's look at the record as set forth by them!

Of this we can be assured - as those who have gone before us - and these splendid men and women in this room whose very presence tonight testifies. With heartfelt thanks, and with unyielding determination as in the immortal words first uttered by my illustrious colleagues, we hear the hallowed voices - Blue and Gray - who made it the great common heritage of the melting pot, sealed with blood in the spirit of the dauntless pioneers and in this tradition we must and we will - under God.

It has been a distinct honor and privilege, and in conclusion let me say what words cannot express. On that note may I leave you with this parting thought which I know will be taken in the spirit in which it is offered, for the die is cast before the bar of justice and world opinion.